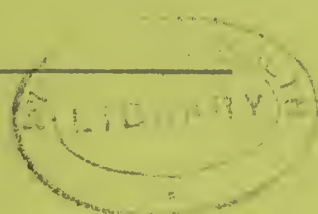


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A.
BOROUGH OF FLINT



MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 1953

BOROUGH OF FLINT.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Borough
Council of Flint.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report on the health of the Borough for the year 1953.

The live-births numbered 263, compared with 271 in 1952, giving a slight fall in the birth-rate, which is, however, well above that for England and Wales as a whole. There were 7 still-births, compared with 5 in the previous year. During the year 7 infants under a year old died, giving a favourable comparison with 1952, when the figure was 10. Four of the 7 were under a month old.

Deaths of residents amounted to 156, ten fewer than in 1952, giving a fall in the death rate, which was lower than that for the country as a whole, of the total of deaths over forty-three percent. were due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system, and over twenty-eight percent. to cancer of one type or another. There were no deaths due to infectious diseases. There were two deaths associated with pregnancy and childbirth.

Concerning tuberculosis, there were 7 new pulmonary cases and 5 non-pulmonary cases, compared with 13 and 2 in 1952. There were no deaths from this complaint. It is good to record that there is close co-operation between the medical practitioners, the chest physicians, and the health departments of the Borough and the County Councils. A notable result of the early detection of tuberculosis is that patients now spend much less time in the sanatorium. With early diagnosis and modern treatment, patients are more quickly made well enough to return to their homes and to work. Many of the cases are mild enough to be treated at home.

During the year, there were only 24 notifications of infectious and notifiable diseases (including tuberculosis), the majority being measles and whooping cough.

Sections C, D, and E, concerning water supplies, sewerage, factories' inspections, sanitary inspections, housing, and food and drugs, were written by Mr. D.I. Kennedy, your Sanitary Inspector, to whom I continue to be indebted for his excellent work and loyal co-operation.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the officers of the Council for their willing help at all times throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

D.J. FRASER.

Medical Officer of Health.



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SECTION A.

Social Conditions, including Vital Statistics.

Area: 6,243 statutory acres.

Population: (1951 Census): 14,257; Registrar General's Estimate at mid-year; 1952: 14,250; 1953: 14,210.

Number of Inhabited Houses: 4,046; Average number of persons per house: 3.50.

Population Density: 2.28 persons per statutory acre.

Rateable Value: £70,830.0.0. Product of Penny Rates: £276.0.0.

Vital Statistics. These are presented in tabular form. For purposes of comparison figures for last year are given, and, where appropriate, the rates for England and Wales as a whole.

TABLE I.

LIVE-BIRTHS -

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	137	111	248
Illegitimate	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>15</u>
Total	<u>143</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>263</u>

(1952 total: 271 births).

Live-Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 1953 - 18.50; 1952 - 19.01;

England and Wales: Live-Birth Rate per 1,000 population; 1953 (provisional): 15.5.

These figures show that there has been a fall in the birth rate but it is well above the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

TABLE II.

STILL-BIRTHS -

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	2	4	6
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>

(1952 total: 5).

Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still-births: 1953 - 25.92;
1952 - 18.11.

Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 1953 - 0.49; 1952 - 0.35.

England and Wales: Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 1953
(provisional): 0.35; 1952: 0.35.

The still-birth rate for the Borough shows a slight increase.

TABLE III.

DEATH (GENERAL) RATE -

	Males.	Females.	Total.
All ages (all causes)	93	63	156

(1952 total: 166).

Death Rate per 1,000 population: 1953 - 10.97; 1952 - 11.64.

England and Wales: Death Rate per 1,000 population: 1953 (provisional)
11.4; 1952: 11.3.

The general death rate shows a slight fall compared with the
previous year. There has been a rise in the rate for England and Wales.

TABLE IV.

DEATHS (GENERAL) ANALYSIS -

The examination of this table, shown on the opposite page, shows
that there were 68 deaths due to diseases of the heart and circulatory
system, and 44 deaths from cancer of all sites. Corresponding figures
for the previous year are 69 and 33 respectively. There were no deaths
from pulmonary tuberculosis, compared with 3 in 1952. Deaths from
pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases totalled 3 (16 in
1952). There were 11 deaths from lung cancer, compared with 2 in 19
1952.

There were no deaths from non-respiratory tuberculosis,
diphtheria, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, measles, diabetes,
meningitis or influenza.

Cause of Death.	M.	F.	TOTAL.	RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.
Leukaemia	2	1	3	0.21
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	7	1	8	0.56
Lung and Bronchus	10	1	11	0.77
Breast	-	1	1	0.07
Uterus	-	1	1	0.07
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	16	7	23	1.61
Vascular Lesion of Nervous System	7	-	15	1.05
Coronary Disease - Angina	13	5	18	1.26
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	2	5	0.35
Other Heart Disease	8	18	26	1.82
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	2	2	0.14
Pneumonia	2	-	2	0.14
Bronchitis	1	-	1	0.07
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	1	1	0.07
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1	0.07
Hyperplasia - prostate	1	-	1	0.07
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2	0.14
Other Defined & Ill-defined Diseases	7	12	19	1.33
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1	0.07
All other accidents	5	2	7	0.49
Suicide	3	-	3	0.21
Homicide	1	-	1	0.07
Other Circulatory Disease	4	-	4	0.28
Total	93	63	156	

TABLE V.

DEATHS (MATERNAL) -

Causes associated with pregnancy and childbirth. There were two deaths attributable to these causes.

TABLE VI.

DEATHS (INFANTILE) - i.e. Infants under one year old. -

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	4	3	7

(1952 total: 10).

Infantile Death-Rate of legitimate babies per 1,000 legitimate births:
1953 - 28.22; 1952 - 38.16.

Infantile Death-Rate of illegitimate babies per 1,000 illegitimate births: 1953 - Nil; 1952 - Nil.

Infantile Death-Rate per 1,000 live births (legitimate and illegitimate): 1953 - 26.61; 1952 - 36.90.

England and Wales. Infantile Death-Rate per 1,000 live-births (legitimate and illegitimate): 1953 - 26.8; 1952 - 27.6.

The infantile death rate for England and Wales reached a new low record of 26.8 per 1,000 live-births. The rate for Flint Borough shows a slight fall. There were no deaths among illegitimate babies under one year old. Of the seven infants who died, four were under a month old.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Officers. The officers serving the Borough during the year were -

Town Clerk: Mr. D.H. Davies, LL.B.

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. D.J. Fraser, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector: Mr. D.I. Kennedy, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Borough Engineer & Surveyor: Mr. T.K. Blackwell, A.M.I.Mun.E.,
M.Inst.H.E., M.R.San.I.

Ambulance Facilities. Provided by the County Council. An ambulance is available in Flint on a 24-hour service. Transport for sitting cases is arranged through the County Welfare Department.

Home Nursing

Home Help

Midwifery in the Home

Health Visiting

Tuberculosis Health Visiting

)
Service provided by the
County Council.

Vaccination. By arrangement with the Local General Medical Practitioners.

Treatment Clinics and Centres. The following Table gives particulars of the Centres and Clinics at which facilities for consultation and/or treatment are available to the residents of the Borough:-

Clinic.	Situation.	Dates and Times of Openings.
<u>Tuberculosis.</u>		
(Provided by the Regional Board).	Cottage Hospital, Holywell. Oaklands, Queens ferry.	Every Tuesday 10.30.a.m. Every Wednesday 10.0.a.m.
<u>Ante-Natal.</u>		
(Provided by the County Council).	The Clinic, Boro' Grove, Flint.	1st & 3rd Thursday of month 9.30.a.m. - 12 noon.
	Tabernacle School- room, Bagillt.	2nd & 4th Thursday 1.30.p.m. - 4.30.p.m.
<u>Ophthalmic Clinic.</u>		
(Provided by the County Council).	The Clinic, Holywell.	2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month by appointment.
<u>Infant Welfare and Post Natal.</u>		
(Provided by the County Council).	The Clinic, Boro' Grove, Flint.	Every Monday 1.30. - 4.30.p.m. Medical Officer attends 2nd & 4th Monday each month.
	Tabernacle School- room, Bagillt.	Thursdays 1.30. - 4.30.p.m.
<u>School Clinic.</u>		
(Provided by the County Council).	The Clinic, Boro' Grove, Flint.	Every Tuesday 9.30. a.m. - 12 noon.
<u>Diphtheria Immunisation.</u>		
(Provided by the County Council).	The Clinic, Boro' Grove, Flint.	2nd Friday of month 9.30.a.m.-12 noon.
<u>Orthopaedic.</u>		
(Provided by the Regional Hospital Board).	Holywell Cottage Hospital. Shotton - New Clinic, Central School.	2nd & 4th Friday each month, 10.a.m.-12noon. 1st & 3rd Wednesday each month, 10.a.m. - 12 noon.
<u>Dental.</u>		
(Provided by the County Council).	The Clinic, Boro' Grove, Flint.	Tuesday 9.30.a.m. (by appointment).

Hospital Accommodation. This is provided by the Regional Hospital Board. Facilities are available at Flint Cottage Hospital. Residents are also admitted to other hospitals in the Region.

SECTION C.

Public Health Services and Sanitary Inspection.

Water and Water Supplies. - The Borough continues to be fortunate in the excellence of the mains water supplied by the Birkenhead Corporation, and as in previous years the demand for water again increased.

The number of water samples taken during the year were 64. Of this number 59 were taken for Bacteriological examination and 5 for Chemical analysis. Of the samples taken, 9 were unsatisfactory bacteriologically, but it must be pointed out that this rather large number consisted of 7 repeats on two initially unsatisfactory samples. In one case on repeat samples being taken a further unsatisfactory result was not obtained and in the other case the defect was righted at the service reservoir after a considerable amount of probing to find the cause of the trouble. The unsatisfactory samples obtained during the year, though undesirable, do at least show the necessity for the random regular water sampling now carried out. Small defects in service reservoirs, faulty house water storage, etc., are discovered through this method of sampling and it prevents the oft drawn conclusion that because water is satisfactory on coming into the service reservoir it is necessarily also satisfactory at the point of consumption by the public.

Sewerage and Drainage. - No works in connection with the extension of main sewerage were carried out during the year, and it appears that none will take place during 1954. There is a very considerable amount of this work to be done before the Borough can be regarded as properly sewered and with the present restrictions on capital expenditure it must be some years before this condition can be reached.

In the meantime, there are in the Borough many premises equipped with septic tank and filter for sewage treatment, and the Council empty the septic tanks once per year free of charge. It is a great pity that in many cases the occupiers of these properties do not give any thought to the apparatus until the manhole outside the back door overflows. By the time this happens, the filter has often become choked with sludge and the expense to the occupiers (apart from the inconvenience) of having the filter media removed, washed and replaced is considerable. The advice of the Public Health Department on the efficient maintenance of small sewerage treatment plants is always available and will be given with the greatest pleasure to any enquirer.

Public Cleansing. - No particular defects were encountered in connection with this service during the year under review. The service is rather one which by its nature gives rise to continual minor, and often alarming, tragedies, rather than sensational major calamities. It is affected by many aspects of a community's environment-perhaps most of all by one over which the community has no control - the weather. Continued dry and warm weather, for instance, will so alter the consistency of house refuse that its ash content will be almost nil, thus throwing the paper content to a relatively high figure. This in itself may seem of small importance, but it can, and sometimes does, mean tip fires, vehicles sinking on the disposal sites owing to the great compressibility of a high paper content refuse, and the presence of numbers of vermin (e.g. rodents, crickets, etc.) owing to the presence of voids in the tip substance. Again a keen frost on a winter's night may make steps and paths so slippery that it is virtually impossible for men to carry out the collection of nightsoil.

The waste paper market returned to a steadier position during the year, and although it was barely economical to bale paper at the market price obtainable, if this paper is not baled it creates considerable difficulties on the disposal site, therefore, although it may appear at first sight that the collection of waste paper is financially a loss, this other most important point must always be borne in mind. It is believed that there is a possibility of the market price improving during the next few years though it is doubtful if it will ever again reach the figures obtained in 1951.

A considerable amount of work was done during the year on the organisation of street gully emptying. Every street gully in the Borough, for which the Council are responsible, has been given a number, its position noted, and been put on a rota sheet. Every Tuesday morning the driver of the vehicle takes out a fresh sheet and cleans those gullies, noting any which are defective in any way, when a request for the remedying of the defect is passed to the Borough Surveyor's Department. By this new system every street gully is cleansed every 17 weeks, and it is possible to tell at a glance when any gully in the Borough was last cleansed. This system has been found to be of considerable value.

Factories Act, 1937. - Two factories were removed from the register during the year, but otherwise the only changes were of a minor nature. Only 11 of the factories in the Borough employed more than 10 persons and of these 11 only 6 employed more than 20 persons. The number of factory inspections during the year was smaller than is usual owing to other urgent matters which are mentioned elsewhere in this report

No. on Register	38
No. of Initial Inspections	11
No. of Cases in which defects were found	2
No. of Follow-up visits	3
Total No. of Visits to Factories	14

The defect found in each case concerned the cleanliness of the sanitary accommodation, a fault which was remedied forthwith.

Part VIII of the Act: Outworkers (Section 110 & 111).

No notifications of outworkers were received during the year.

TABLE VII.

Sanitary Inspections and Supervision.— The following Table gives a summary of the inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

Inspections and re-inspections in connection with:—

Statutory Nuisances	347
Moveable Dwellings	13
Courts, Yards and Passages	17
Sanitary Accommodation	181
Drainage and Sewerage	186
Infectious Disease	40
Water Supply	82
Rodent Control	22
Public Cleansing	134
Provision of Dustbins	10
Infestation (all descriptions)	34
Dwelling Houses (Housing Act, 1936)	182
Building Byelaws	90
Miscellaneous	64
Total	<u>1,422</u>

The following is a list of works performed by various Council servants:—

Inspections for Rodent Control	253
Inspections and Service — Choked Drains	299
Disinfection of Premises after Infectious Disease	4
Disinfestation of Premises (Bugs, fleas, ants, etc.)	23
Number of Cesspools Emptied	212

TABLE VIII.

Statutory Notices served under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936	22
Statutory Notices served under Section 45, Public Health Act, 1936	11
Statutory Notices served under Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936	4
Cases in which Legal Proceedings were instituted	Nil

SECTION D.

Housing.— By the end of the year 120 of the houses planned at Lees Cornist had been completed, leaving 6 for completion. Progress at the Wern Estate, Bagillt, continued to be slow and only 42 of the 50 had been completed. Work on Orrellows Field was satisfactory and by the end of the year 33 out of the planned 46 houses had been occupied and a contract for a further 10 houses on this site had been commenced and was well in hand.

The number of applicants on the Council's waiting list continues to increase as is shown by the figures supplied by your Housing Manager:—

	at 31.12.52.	at 31.12.53.
No. of Applicants	601	608
No. in Rooms and overcrowded	264	213
No. in Rooms not overcrowded	135	137
No. in Structurally separate dwellings and overcrowded	113	105
No. in Structurally separate dwellings not overcrowded	87	78
Applicants requiring Old People's Dwellings	35	24

Once again it is pleasing to record that the Housing Committee have been most sympathetic to the special cases I have brought to their notice and I greatly appreciate their continued assistance.

Progress of new housing in the Borough during the year is indicated by the following figures:—

No. of Houses completed in 1952:

(a) Council 85 (b) Private 6 Total 91.

At 31st December, 1953, a further 53 Council houses were under construction.

SECTION E.

Food and Drugs.

Milk. — It is pleasing to record that the amount of specially designated milk sold in the Borough increased in the year under review with a corresponding decrease in the amount of undesignated milk retailed. It would appear that there is a possibility of the Borough being included in a "Special Designated Area" (i.e. an area

area/

in which no undesignated milk may be sold) within the next year or so and this would certainly be a great step forward.

A total of 80 milk samples of all descriptions were taken during the year and of these 26 were examined Bacteriologically for the presence of tuberculosis organisms. One sample showed a positive result on the Bacteriological test, and as a result an investigation was carried out in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Veterinary Officer and the County Sanitary Officer, resulting in a cow from the herd being slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order 1938.

Several of the samples of heat-treated milk failed to pass the keeping quality test, but in this connection must be mentioned the very considerable difficulties in taking the precautions for insulation of samples required by the regulations. With the Public Health Laboratory situated at Birkenhead, at least three different methods of transport are required, and the problem of a light yet efficient insulated container has not yet been overcome. There were, however, only 2 phosphatase test failures (the phosphatase test is one by which it is possible to determine whether milk has been pasteurised properly) and in each case they were due to the erratic behaviour of the continuous recording thermometer attached to the pasteurising plant and no less than four replacement thermometers were fitted by the dairyman before satisfaction was obtained.

A very considerable amount of work was done in connection with the presence of the organism *Brucella abortus* in milk, but there is no doubt that much research has yet to be done in connection with this organism. The organism, which is responsible for contagious abortion of cattle, gives rise to undulant fever in man, the excretion of the organism in the cows milk is, however, so erratic that in many cases it is nearly impossible to trace the animal excreting the organism. Coupled with this is the fact that the ring test for the presence or absence of the *Brucella abortus* is not 100% accurate, and difficulties have arisen in this connection. It is hoped that within a few years the position will be very much clearer than it is today.

There are in the Borough only 4 premises registered as dairies under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Ice-Cream. - There are two manufacturers of ice-cream in the Borough, and neither of them make ice-cream on a large scale. Practically all ice-cream sold from shops is now pre-wrapped, and this reduces the possibility of contamination before sale. Ten samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and it is pleasing to record that all were Provisional Grade I.

Both manufacturers of ice-cream use the heat treatment method of manufacture and particular attention is paid during visits to the premises to the recording thermometer used.

Additional registrations during the year brought the number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream to 31.

Food Premises. - During the year the initial spade work was done to get full particulars of all food premises in the Borough, and the following figures give the numbers of various premises handling food, which are classified by the type of business. In each case the major type of trade carried on is given as the classification, except where there is no predominant trade, when the classification "General Store" is used.

Cafes, Canteens and Restaurants	13
Grocers	40
General Stores	11
Fish and Chip Shops	4
Sweets	11
Green Grocers	10
Butchers	14
Fishmongers	2
Bakers & Confectioners	9
Ice-Cream Manufacturers	2
Dairy	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>117</u>

Of the above premises 31 are registered for the sale of ice-cream, 2 for the manufacture of ice-cream and 7 for the manufacture of preserved food. A total number of 225 visits were made to all types of food premises, and of these 66 were specifically for the examination of unsound food. No distinction is made between registered and unregistered food premises as far as the number of inspections made is concerned since it is considered that the need for supervision is as great and even greater in an unregistered premises, using (for example) a large amount of synthetic cream than in a factory where the pickling of onions is carried out. This point illustrates the fallacy of the provisions of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, since presumably the purpose behind the registration of premises was to ensure greater supervision. Owing, however, to the narrow wording of the section many food premises needing close supervision and advice are excluded from registration, whilst others are registered almost needlessly.

Unsound Food. - The following food was examined and found to be unfit for human consumption:-

	Lbs.	Ozs.
Canned Meat	284	4
" Fruit	246	4
" Vegetables	43	11
" Milk	65	6
" Soup	9	4
" Fish	0	14
Cheese	60	0
C. Cheese	36	8
Flour	3	0
Jam	2	0
Pickles and Sauces	7	10
Macaroni	20	8
Meat	49	8
Manipulated Meat	22	8
Fish	54	0
Miscellaneous	5	8
Potatoes	112	0
Candied Peel	30	0

All unsound food is disposed of by burning at the mill.

Food Poisoning. - There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

SECTION P.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases.

TABLE K.

Name of Disease.	Cases Notified.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	3 (11)	-
Whooping Cough	7 (43)	-
Acute Pneumonia	4 (6)	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	- (1)	-
Measles	7 (27)	-
Dysentery	1 (-)	-
Erysipelas	1 (-)	-
Malaria	1 (-)	-
Totals	24 (136)	

(The figures in brackets are those for 1952).

From Table X it is seen that there was a great reduction in prevalence of infectious disease. The incidence of measles and whooping cough (the commonest infectious diseases in children) occurs in cycles, so that no major outbreak may be expected for a year or two. There were two deaths from pneumonia, compared with six in 1952. There were no cases of poliomyelitis, or of diphtheria. The case of ill rix occurred in a man who contracted the complaint abroad. The discovery of the case of dysentery was due to the zeal of the Sanitary Inspector, who sent the necessary specimen material to the Laboratory for examination.

Influenza of a mild type occurred in the early spring, but no deaths were reported.

Analysis of Notifiable (Infectious) Diseases.

TABLE II.

Disease.	Number of Cases notified as having occurred among persons of the ages immediately below specified.							Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 over	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3
Whooping Cough	1	1	3	2	—	—	—	7
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Dysentery	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	—	3	3	1	—	—	—	7
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	1	5	6	4	2	—	6	24

TABLE XII. — TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases notified in 1953.

Age Groups.	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	1
5—	—	—	2	—
15—	—	1	1	—
25—	1	1	—	—
35—	3	—	—	1
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	1	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—
All ages.	4	3	3	2

During the year five cases were reported as cured, and their names were removed from the register.

There were no deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, compared with three in 1952. There were no deaths from non-respiratory Tuberculosis.

It will be seen from the above Table that there were seven cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and five non-pulmonary cases. (Figures for 1952 were 13 and 2). The continued number of cases notified does not necessarily mean that the incidence of Tuberculosis is increasing, but it does imply that fewer cases remain undetected. One of the cases was a transfer from another district.

Satisfactory housing has a considerable effect upon the recovery of cases of tuberculosis and, where necessary, "points" are given on medical grounds to cases of tuberculosis who are applicants for a council house. I must continue to be extremely grateful to the Council for their continued sympathetic consideration of these cases, and to your Housing Manager, Mr. H. Byrne, for his close co-operation with the Health Department.
